

**Wally
Herger**
Congressman

2nd District - California



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Herger Applauds Passage of Measure to Make the Price of Gasoline More Affordable

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) - Congressman Wally Herger today voted in favor of H.R. 3893, the "Gasoline for America's Security (GAS) Act." The House passed the measure by a vote of 212 to 210. The GAS Act will expand our nation's refinery capacity by streamlining bureaucratic and regulatory barriers that inhibit improving existing refineries and building new ones, and will ban price gouging in gasoline and diesel sales and institute tough penalties for violators. Congressman Herger made the following statement after House passage of this legislation:

"Hurricanes Katrina and Rita highlighted the critical need to improve America's refinery capacity," Herger said. "These devastating storms crippled our energy supply in the Gulf Region, resulting in higher prices at the pump nationwide. This common sense legislation will help existing refineries become safer and more efficient and productive, and will allow new refineries to be built in a timelier manner.

"Our nation has not built a new refinery since 1976, and the existing refineries are operating at 95% capacity," continued Herger. "Put simply, America literally cannot afford to continue the status quo of allowing stringent regulations to prevent critical upgrades to our nation's refinery capacity."

The GAS Act will encourage new refineries through regulatory relief and risk insurance, and will reduce the number of "boutique fuel blends" around the country from seventeen to six. The measure also promotes new pipelines to get crude oil and refined products to consumers at lower prices. Further, it explicitly outlaws price gouging in federal law, and sets penalties of \$11,000 per violation against sellers of motor fuels who engage in price gouging during federally declared emergencies.

Herger concluded, "Every American is significantly affected by rising gasoline prices. The GAS Act provides for increased gasoline production, which, in time, will help make gasoline more affordable. I hope the Senate will act responsibly and promptly consider this important legislation."

The Senate has not indicated whether it will consider similar legislation.

For more information, log on to <http://www.house.gov/herger> on the Internet!